

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-11 have been amended to further clarify Applicants claimed invention.

**PRIOR ART REJECTIONS**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, and claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over, Matsumura et al. (Matsumura). Applicant traverses these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims (as amended).

Regarding claims 1-6, 9 and 10, Matsumura discloses that “[o]nly the picture portion that the transmission side determines will be affected [by the detected error] is forcibly coded in the intra-frame coding picture mode, the other picture portions being coded in the normal manner, and the resultant picture data are transmitted to the reception side.” In particular, Matsumura discloses an “error effected region estimation circuit 212” which:

employs the error location information to determine a portion that may be affected by distortion due to an error, and transmits the predicted information to the moving picture coder, which in turn codes, in the intra-frame coding mode, a picture portion that may be affected by the distortion.

(see Id., col. 8, line 58 through col. 9, line 6).

Based on the foregoing disclosure, the Examiner alleges that Matsumura discloses, or at least suggests, all of the features recited in Applicant’s independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 10.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant's invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 provides methods of processing transmission data to inhibit error propagation comprising unique combinations of steps, including *inter alia*,

(a) inputting an image frame from an external source;

(b) checking for feedback error information including the location of an erroneous block on a first compressed image frame detected during decoding by a decoder, the feedback error information received via a communication network;  
[and]

(c) if it is determined in step (b) that there is feedback error information, intracoding an erroneous block, the location of which is included in the feedback error information, and its search range, said search range being defined by blocks referenced to encode the erroneous block using an intercoding method, among the image frame input in step (a), thereby constituting a second compressed image frame

(Applicant's claim 1; see also Applicant's claims 5, 9 and 10)

Thus, one of the features of Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 is **"intracoding an erroneous block, the location of which is included in the feedback error information, and its search range, said search range being defined by blocks referenced to encode the erroneous block using an intercoding method"** (claims 1, 5, 9 and 10, emphasis added). The Examiner alleges that "search range [as recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 10] = a portion that maybe affected by the distortion [as described in Matsumura]" (see Office Action, page 2, paragraph 2).

However, the Examiner's allegation is not supported by Matsumura's actual disclosure. That is, claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 recite "intracoding an erroneous block ... and its search region" and explicitly recite "search range being defined by blocks referenced to encode the erroneous block using intercoding method." On the other hand, as noted above, Matsumura discloses a

system which performs “intra-frame coding ... [of] a picture portion that **may be affected by the distortion**” (see Id., col. 9, lines 4-6). Nowhere does Matsumura disclose, teach or suggest that its “picture portion that may be affected by distortion” includes, not only an erroneous block, but also a specific search range defined by **blocks referenced to encode the erroneous block using an intercoding method**. Instead, Matsumura describes various estimation techniques for estimating what picture portion may be distorted (see Id., col. 9, lines 7-51).

Therefore, Applicant’s independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 10, as well as the dependent claims 2-4 and 6 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims 1 and 5), are not anticipated by, and would not have been obvious from, Matsumura at least for this reason.

Regarding claims 7, 8 and 11, Matsumura fails to disclose or suggest at least the following claim limitations:

- (e) receiving a second compressed image frame in which an error detected block and a search range of the error-detected block have been encoded by intracoding in response to the feedback error information sent in step (c), from the encoder via the communication network;

- (f) decoding the second compressed image frame received in step (e) referring to the error detected block and the search range of the error detected block, to constitute a second image frame; and

- (g) outputting the second image frame restored in step (f).

Therefore, Applicant’s independent claims 7 and 11, as well as the dependent claim 8 (which incorporates all the novel and unobvious features of its base claim 7), are not anticipated by, and would not have been obvious from, Matsumura at least for this reason.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. NO. 09/712,230

Atty Dkt No. Q61098

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

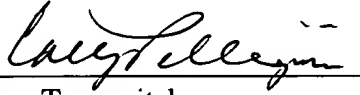
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